

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. -- James Monroe

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U. S. Places Drastic Controls On Prices

Congress Debates New Curbs on Farm Prices and Further Limits on Wages

7-POINT PROGRAM EXAMINED

Entire Nation Is Affected by Sweeping Restrictions Which Are Now Going into Effect

Last week, the war was brought more forcefully home to the American people than at any time since Pearl Harbor. For the first time in their history, a common foodstuff could be obtained only with a ration ticket. Later this week, another product, gasoline, long associated with American progress and the high American standard of living, will be sold in the eastern states only on a rationed basis.

These were the first signs of things to come to wartime America. Hints were dropped that many other products of common usage would soon be rationed—tea and coffee and perhaps many others. Other products would not be available at all to the consuming public as the manufacturers have been ordered to cease producing them and to turn to war production. Before many months have passed the American people will have learned that they can and must do without many things to which they have become accustomed.

Changes to Come

The President, in his message to Congress and in his address to the American people, spoke of some of the changes that will be made in the weeks ahead. He outlined a sweeping program designed to put the American economy on a full wartime basis—the most sweeping program of its kind in our entire history. It will affect the American housewife, the landlord, the wage earner, the businessman, the farmer, the manufacturer; in fact, every individual in the land, more directly than anything that has yet happened since the outbreak of war. The President declared:

This enormous program is dislocating industry, agriculture, and finance. It is disrupting, and will continue to disrupt, the normal manner of life of every American. . . .

Each and every one of us will have to give up many things to which we are accustomed. We shall have to live our lives with less. . . . Our standard of living will have to come down.

I firmly believe that Americans all will welcome this opportunity to share in the fight of civilized mankind to preserve decency and dignity in modern life. For this is fundamentally a people's war—and it must be followed by a people's peace. . . . It requires the participation of all the people in the common effort for our common cause.

While the President did not use the word "inflation" in his recent utterances, the program which he is advocating—part of which has already gone into effect—has the principal purpose of halting the upward trend of prices—a trend which is

(Concluded on page 7)



Rationing comes into American life

One Thing You Can Do

By Walter E. Myer

A good many people who are in neither the armed forces nor a war industry are asking what they can do to help win the war. There are numerous things that any citizen can do. We have spoken of a number of them in this paper. One may avoid using scarce materials, may save and invest in war stamps and bonds, may work with unaccustomed efficiency on whatever job he has. These things are important. But here is something else each person can do. He can spend all his spare time studying the issues of the war, becoming familiar with the national purposes, trying to understand the problems which must be solved if we are to win the war and then establish an enduring peace.

This is a job in which students should do effective work. The boys who are at the front or in training haven't much time for such studies. Men and women who are working long hours in war industries haven't either. But there are millions of students whose main work is to go to school, to study, to obtain an education. It is their duty to engage in the studies which will help them most to serve the nation. In ordinary times one may argue that he goes to school to serve his own interests. He may go to benefit himself alone. That is never a very worthy motive, but it is absolutely out of place in times like the present. When millions of men are sacrificing everything for their country, a person, young or old, who stays at home and thinks only of feathering his own nest is not worth his salt.

You can serve your country by becoming expertly informed on the big issues of war and peace. Then you can help to build a strong, healthy national morale. You will know how to reply to those who sabotage the war effort by raising doubts about the nation's motives or by stirring up suspicion against our Allies. You will help to build a united public opinion which will support the war, and which will guide the nation safely through the dangerous postwar period. You will know how to keep the country strong and free and democratic and humane, through all the dangers and sacrifices and discouragements of war and reconstruction. A public opinion which is informed, wise, and patriotic is necessary to victory. Every reader of this paper can help to mould opinion and can thus contribute to victory. But he will have to work at it. He will have to sacrifice for it. He won't have to risk his life, as the soldier does, but he will have to give of his spare time, his leisure, time which he ordinarily uses for his own pleasures. Surely such sacrifices are not too great at an hour like this.

Peace Offensive Is Launched By Hitler

Recent Speech Seen as Indication Axis Seeks to Undermine United Nations

PART OF MILITARY STRATEGY

U. S. Warned Against Peace Proposals Which Would Leave Germany in an Invincible Position

There have been many signs during the last few days that Hitler is preparing to launch a peace offensive. From all the neutral capitals of Europe, rumors and reports have come of peace feelers and peace proposals offered by the Nazis to the British. There were definite indications of a peace offensive in Hitler's latest speech to the German Reichstag. Even from Argentina come reports that Italy is ready to sue for peace; that the government of Mussolini is on the verge of being ousted; that the Axis would like to make peace.

The peace offensive is nothing new in the present struggle. It is part of the general military strategy and has been tried, unsuccessfully, several times since the outbreak of war in 1939. After the fall of Poland, for example, Hitler tried to persuade the British and French to come to terms with him since he had no ambitions in Western Europe and the main purpose of the war had been accomplished. After the fall of France, a similar offensive was launched. Hitler tried to convince the British that it was useless for them to continue their resistance and threatened their complete destruction if they persisted in being unreasonable.

Part of General Strategy

Practically every one of Hitler's major military offensives has been preceded by a peace offensive. Whatever the full facts may be on the mysterious flight of Rudolf Hess to England last year, it is fairly clear that one of his objectives was to win the support of Britain for a campaign against the Soviet Union. Hess tried to convince the British officials that the real enemy of Europe was Russia and that the English should join hands with the Germans in crushing the foe of Western civilization.

Any Axis peace offensive which may be launched has two principal purposes. If any peace proposals were accepted, Hitler's enemies would be left in such a weakened position that they could not resist him in the future. In other words, the terms offered have always been such as to leave Hitler in control of all his gains. At the same time, enough bait is held out to lure the unsuspecting and to appeal to those who are weary and who do not understand the issues of the war or the workings of Hitlerism.

The second objective of a peace offensive is to divide Hitler's enemies. He seeks to divide allies and to divide

(Concluded on page 6)



Consumer centers in the schools can be of great service to the nation

Consumer Centers Grow

SEVERAL weeks ago, we suggested that Consumers Victory Clubs be established in the schools for the purpose of carrying on well-organized campaigns against waste of any kind in the nation's communities (see *THE AMERICAN OBSERVER* for April 20).

The Consumers Division of the Office of Price Administration, which is wholeheartedly supporting these clubs, now announced that it is ready to furnish them with materials for use in their campaigns. Upon request to the School and College Staff of the Office of Price Administration, Washington, D. C., Consumers Victory Clubs may obtain a large poster upon which is printed the Consumers Victory Pledge.

As a further activity for Consumers Victory Clubs, the Consumers Division of OPA suggests that the clubs establish Consumer Centers in their schools. People will be coming to the schools to obtain ration cards and books for numerous products to be placed on the ration list, and this will provide a good opportunity to interest them in the war against waste. A small booth or table set up by members of the Consumers Victory Club,

with signs and posters hung on the wall, would attract people and they could readily be persuaded to sign the Consumers Victory Pledge.

This activity can be organized and continued throughout the summer—to function whenever people come to the schools for their ration cards or for any other purpose. It will help to make the school more of a community center.

Consumers Victory Clubs can do a big job through their Consumer Centers by supplying people with information about price-fixing and rationing and similar measures which are being adopted. They can tell people how to use ration books, what products are being rationed, why rationing is necessary, and also why price-fixing and other measures to control the cost of living are being put into effect throughout the country.

Further information and materials, including a leaflet entitled *Consumer Center Information*, may be obtained from the School and College Staff, Office of Price Administration, Washington, D. C.

Medicine Marches On

Medical science, busier than ever in wartime, continues to march forward. In the past few days, these developments have been reported:

Infantile paralysis will probably be treated more widely than ever in the United States by the method which an Australian nurse named Elizabeth Kenny discovered. The American Medical Association, through its *Journal*, has just declared that the treatment is the most successful yet developed. Unlike the old method of keeping victims motionless and in splints, the Kenny system is to apply warm moist pads to the affected muscles, and as soon as all soreness and pain are gone to begin re-education of the muscles immediately.

Head colds may be conquered by a new medicine taken from the common carrot. The substance is not swallowed by the patient, but is massaged into the skin—10 or 15 drops to an area 10 inches square. On 150 test patients, the treatment brought quick recovery to 109, marked improvement to 23, and failed in only 18 cases. The success of the method can be judged better as soon

as its discoverers have the results of trials in at least 5,000 cases.

Blood clots may be warded off by a new drug which is obtained from haystacks. It is called dicoumarin, and is a product of chemical changes which take place in the curing of sweet clover hay. The drug can do nothing about clots already formed within the body, but it seems able to thin out the blood in such a way that clots will not occur. It will thus be able to save the lives of many patients who are killed by clots that form during operations.

Athlete's foot can be cured by a preparation which Paul de Kruif writes about in the May issue of *Reader's Digest*. Actually the medicine was discovered accidentally 35 years ago by a Public Health Service doctor, and why it remained hidden so long makes a good story. The medicine consists of a half-and-half solution of phenol (carbolic acid) and camphor. Most drugstores probably will not mix it without a doctor's prescription. It should be applied only after the skin has been thoroughly dried.

News from All Fronts

President Roosevelt, in telling the nation that "several hundred thousand" men of the Army and Navy are serving overseas, added this picture of their operations in his broadcast: "American warships are now in combat in the North and South Atlantic, in the Arctic, in the Mediterranean, the Indian Ocean, and in the South Pacific. American troops have taken stations in South America, Greenland, Iceland, the British Isles, the Near East, the Middle East, the Far East, the continent of Australia, and many islands of the Pacific. American warplanes, manned by Americans, are flying in actual combat over all the continents and over all the oceans."

Two "firsts" occurred in the launching of the submarine *Peto* a few days ago at Manitowoc, Wisconsin. It was the first time in U. S. naval history that a submarine had been launched into the water sideways. And the *Peto* was the first undersea craft ever to be launched in the Great Lakes.

Radio makers have been ordered by the War Production Board to stop manufacturing 349 types of tubes now on the market. There will still be about 300 types left, ranging from tiny ones the size of a thumbnail to the six-foot giants which are used for high-power broadcasting.

War production in the United States is "over the hump," according to Donald Nelson, and United Nations' output exceeds that of the Axis by a considerable margin. Nevertheless, he said, the real production war has just begun, because it is necessary to overcome the advantage in reserves built up by Germany since 1933 and by Japan since 1930.

There'll be no victory garden at the White House. Like so many other city homes, it has a yard with a subsoil of rubble and old bricks—pronounced unfit for gardening by the Department of Agriculture. So although Mrs. Roosevelt had hoped a garden might be planted, the First Family will avoid wasting seeds.

May 22 will be observed as National Maritime Day, by proclamation of the President, who called for the public to pay "tribute to the patriotism and courage of the officers and men of the cargo ships in the Victory Fleet, and to the men in the shipyards and factories." That date was chosen be-

cause it was on May 22, 1819, that the steamship *Savannah* sailed from Savannah, Georgia, on the first successful steam-propelled transoceanic voyage.

Hundreds of tests have proved that nylon is equally as good as silk for making parachutes, it was reported last week. In some respects it is said to be even stronger than silk. A parachute has a heavy burden to support, because a paratrooper with full equipment often weighs as much as 250 pounds. As he plunges toward the earth, the force of his weight, before opening the chute, is about 1,000 pounds.

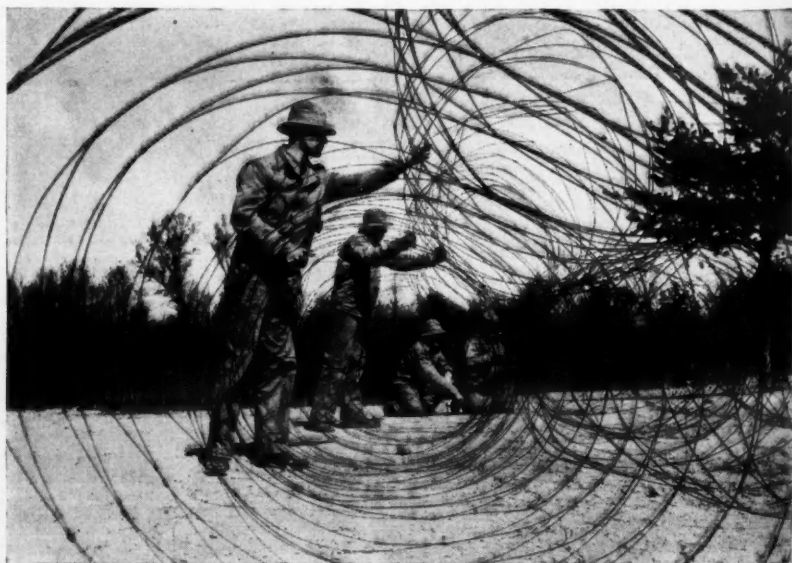
Teachers and other leaders of small communities will be interested in the "Small Town Manual," which the Department of Commerce has just published. The manual suggests a method for taking inventory of the assets and shortcomings of a small town and the surrounding country, including commercial, agricultural, recreational, and educational facilities. How to plan and organize betterment activities is also outlined.

The President told the nation in his recent radio broadcast that "we are now spending, solely for war purposes, the sum of about \$100,000,000 every day in the week. But, before this year is over, that almost unbelievable rate of expenditure will be doubled." He thus illustrated the need for each individual to invest "every dime and every dollar" that can be spared in war bonds.



Science has already produced some amazing results with a new drug called colchicine, which is used to speed up the growth of plants. Its vast possibilities for causing the growth of large-sized fruits and vegetables are still being explored. Now there is another substance with great promise for agriculture. It is levulinic acid. Seeds treated with it make possible increased yields in crops.

Officers and men of the Marine Corps have been training in glider operations since the summer of 1941. Part of the training is being conducted in the vicinity of Chicago, and the rest at Parris Island, South Carolina.



VEHICLE-STOPPER. Army engineers at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, lay down tempered steel wire to stop trucks and other vehicles in a demonstration test.



A modern strato-clipper flies over Puerto Rico

Seeing South America . . . XXVII

BY WALTER E. MYER

WHEN we left Rio de Janeiro early one morning our South American trip was practically over. We were to make no other long stop on the homeward journey.

We traveled straight northward from Rio, and on the way to Belem, at the mouth of the Amazon, we were flying over a rough country, mostly wooded, with quite a few hills, several mountains, but very few villages or towns.

At about noon we stopped at Barreiras, a town in the midst of the eastern Brazil jungle. Our plane left Rio a day late on account of the fog, and at Barreiras we were met by a strato-clipper to which the passengers transferred. It was the plan of the strato-clipper to stop overnight at Belem and then travel fast enough to make up the loss of the day before reaching Miami, Florida. In fact, the strato-clipper was to make the trip from Belem, at the mouth of the Amazon, to Miami in one day. Passengers who made the trip directly were to be in Washington or New York 24 hours from the time they left the Amazon.

We reached Belem late in the afternoon. Belem is a city which has seen better days. A number of years ago when the world got most of its rubber from the Amazon country, the rubber was shipped down the river and Belem was the great rubber port. Now, only a relatively small amount of rubber is shipped from Brazil, most of it being produced in the plantations of the East Indies and the Malay Peninsula, and Belem, having lost a large part of its business, is in a badly run-down condition.

Earlier in this series I have told of the cold weather which prevails throughout a great part of the tropics on account of the high elevation, but Belem is located very near the Equator and also at sea level. Hence, it is very hot there and also rainy. It is said that a big rain may be expected every afternoon. In fact, the rains here come with such regularity that it is a common thing for someone to say, "I will meet you after the rain." When we landed late in the afternoon the roads and streets were dry and the skies were clear. I remarked that apparently the rain was to miss them that day, but was told that it had arrived on time. There had been a big rain an hour or two earlier.

We seemed in this jungle town, at the mouth of the Amazon, to be worlds away from home, and I was quite surprised while standing in the lobby of the hotel to hear someone say: "Prof. Myer, what are you doing here?" I knew at once it was someone whom I had known years before, for it had been a long time since my teaching days. I turned and saw a man who a long time ago was a high school student of mine in Aurora, Illinois. He is now an engineer employed by Pan American Airways, and was developing airfields in Brazil.

Over the Amazon

We left Belem very early the next morning and immediately we were flying over the mouth of the Amazon. Had we not known what it was, we would have assumed that we had flown out over the Atlantic, for the

Amazon is so wide near its mouth that as one approaches the middle of the stream he cannot see the bank on either side. The river is, I believe, about 200 miles wide near the mouth.

We stopped only a little while at Port of Spain, Trinidad, then we were on our way northward and were at San Juan, Puerto Rico, by the middle of the afternoon. We left the strato-clipper here and stopped between planes, or from Wednesday afternoon until Saturday morning. The city has a fine hotel, The Candado, situated on the ocean, and a good many very good public buildings. On the whole, however, I was rather surprised that San Juan was so little Americanized. Most of the people still speak Spanish, and the general appearance is very much that of a South American city.

On Saturday morning we started the last lap of our trip. We left San Juan quite early. We were not on a strato-clipper this time but on a hydroplane. We stopped briefly at San Pedro, Dominican Republic, Port au Prince, Haiti, and Antilla, Cuba. The flying boat, which is about the size of an ordinary land plane though much smaller than the strato-clipper, lands in the water and then is towed in to the pier at the airport. When it lands there is a great splash of water—the plane, seeming for a moment to be almost submerged, but the landing is about as smooth as is that of a land plane.

Late in the afternoon we were in Miami. About an hour was consumed with the Customs and Immigration examination. The American authorities are more exacting than any others whom we met on the trip. They must have seemed very stern and forbidding to foreigners landing for the first time on American soil.

Wealth of U. S.

A glance at Miami could not but emphasize in one's mind the wealth of the United States. In no South American city does one see residences, avenues, public buildings, and hotels like those of the Florida city. The beaches of Viña del Mar at Valparaiso, Chile, and those of Montevideo, Uruguay, and even those of Rio de Janeiro, do not compare with the Florida beaches. One is struck in traveling through South America by the fact that most of the people are poor and that there is relatively little wealth.

We left Miami for Washington by night plane, the first on which we had traveled since leaving the United States. We were at home the next morning. We had flown about 20,000 miles. The distance flown outside the country, that is, from Brownsville, Texas, through Mexico and Central America, down the western South American coast to Santiago, Chile, thence eastward to Buenos Aires and northward by the eastern shore of South America back to Miami was about 16,000 miles. The other 4,000 miles included a few side trips, together with the trip from Washington to Brownsville, and the one from Miami back to Washington.

In closing this series on the South American visit, I should like to emphasize two impressions:

First, the people of South America, not the government officials but just the plain people, are predominately friendly to the United States. Wherever we went we found them think-

ing and talking about the war very much as the people of this country were thinking and talking about it last summer. They are somewhat afraid, however, to plunge into the war. They are waiting to see "which way the cat will jump." They want to be sure that the United Nations will win before they line up. In particular, they want to be sure that the United States can protect the South American coast line against attack from Germany or Japan before they enter the war.

Another impression which remains with me is that the educated people of South America are, after all, quite similar in culture and ideas to the same class in this country. In comparing the people of South America with those of the United States, I was on the whole more impressed by the similarities than by the dissimilarities.

♦ SMILES ♦

Hitler was reviewing his troops and stopped to talk to one private.

"How are things going with you?" he asked.

"Oh, I can't complain, sir," answered the soldier.

"I'll say you can't!" agreed the Fuehrer.

—WALL STREET JOURNAL

City Cousin: "Why are you running that harrow over the grain field?"

Young Farmer: "Oh, I'm raising shredded wheat this year."

—Fairfield (Texas) RECORDER

"Are you sure," wrote the snobbish parent to the headmaster, "that my boy will acquire good manners while he is with you?"

"Madam," was the reply, "your son has every chance with us. At present he has no manners at all—only customs."

—EXCHANGE

The clerk in the telegraph office and the elderly lady had been carrying on a debate for some time when the young man said:

"I'm sorry, ma'am, but it can't be done."

"Why not?" came the irate reply. "If you're so smart that you can send flowers and money by telegraph, I can't understand why you can't send this umbrella."

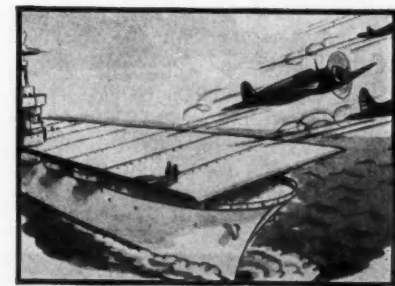
—SELECTED

Waitress: "Would you like some more coffee?"

Grumpy Customer: "Naw, I don't like your coffee, and it looks like mud."

Waitress: "Well, it was ground just this morning."

—CAPPER'S WEEKLY



"This place always seems so big and lonely when they all leave."

TOBEY IN COLLIER'S

"I always feel seedy if I don't get away for a little vacation. What shall I do?"

"If you have any relatives in the country plant yourself on them."

—EXCHANGE

"It says here in the paper that in Egypt women carry baskets of fruit and flowers on their heads."

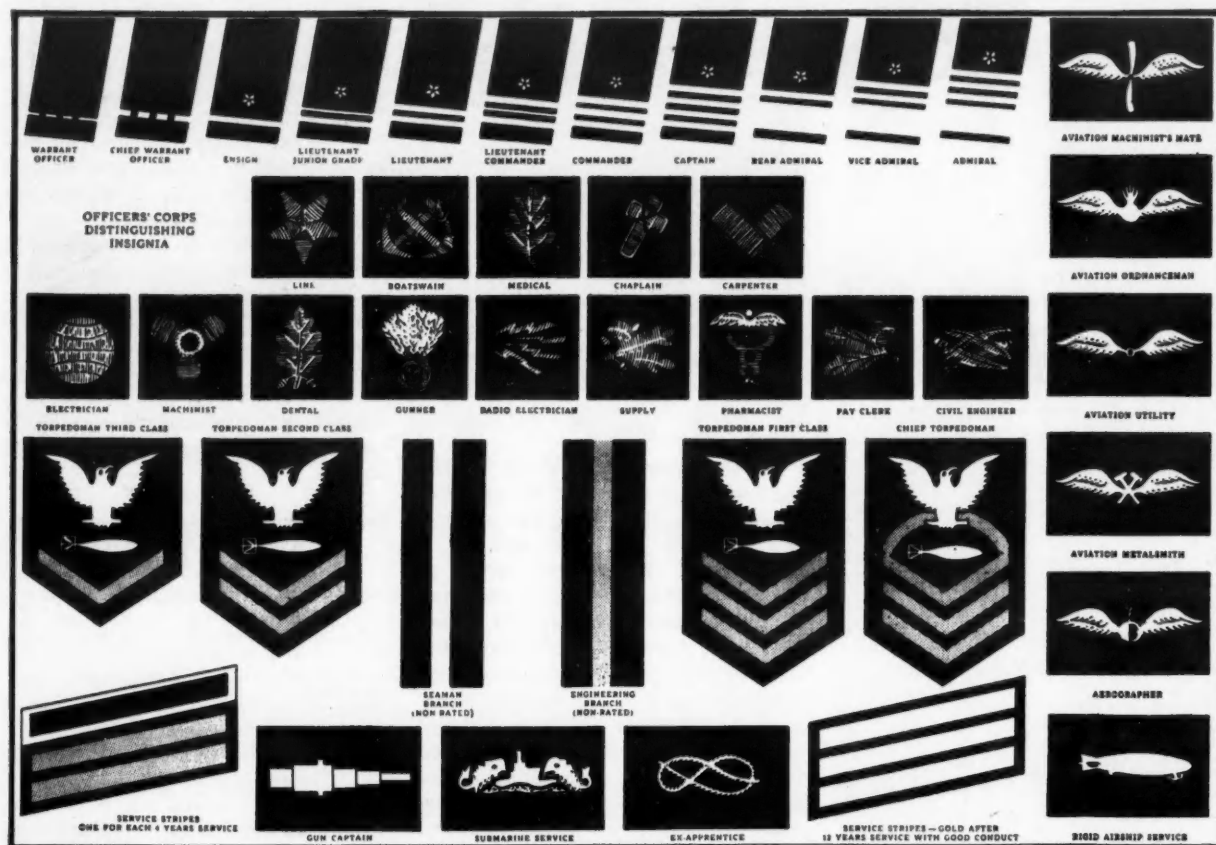
"That's not so remarkable. Women do that over here and call them hats."

—RECORDER

Politician: "And why do you say that talk is cheap?"

Voter: "Because the supply usually exceeds the demand." —PATHFINDER

The Week at Home

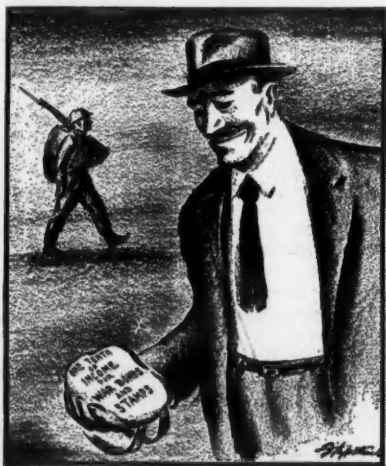


This is the first of two illustrations identifying the U. S. Naval Insignia. The other will follow next week.

Summer Schools

High schools were urged by the United States Office of Education last week to remain in operation throughout the summer. Among the courses of wartime importance which, it was suggested, they could offer are mathematics, science, English, social studies, aviation, trade and clerical occupations, home nursing, nutrition, and first aid. There should be promotion of physical fitness, the advice continued, and attention might well be given to the training of air wardens, auxiliary fire and police officers, and other civilian defense workers.

School systems in general, the Office of Education pointed out, can perform a number of wartime services. They can provide nurseries, kindergartens, and playgrounds for the children of employed mothers. Their buildings can be used for the entertainment of service men and war workers, and for the activities of the Red Cross. And school buses, wherever regulations permit, should be employed to relieve strains on local transportation. Plans can be made for the conversion of school buildings into emergency hospitals during air raids or epidemics.



The light pack
FITZPATRICK IN ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Among the activities suggested for young people of high school age are organized victory gardening, and the canning of fruits and vegetables in school kitchens. A program of medical examination and correction which would fit young people for war services is also suggested.

More Money - More Army

Congress was prepared last week to receive a request from President Roosevelt for \$35 billion—the largest single appropriation in all history—for the United States Army. This sum was reported to be divided up for the following purposes:

1. A 4,000,000-man Army early in 1943, and the equipment and supplies for a 5,000,000-man Army later in 1943.
2. The building of 23,000 bombers and fighters, making a total of 150,000 planes for which financial provisions will have been made.
3. The completion of the Army's antiaircraft gun program, calling for 55,000 guns before July 1, 1943.
4. The completion of the program to build 45,000 tanks this year and 75,000 next year.
5. Providing the Army with full equipment for fighting in any country in the world and under any conditions.

Added to the \$162 billion or more already provided for war purposes, the \$35 billion will bring the total cost of the war, as far as present plans are concerned, up to nearly \$200 billion.

Submarine Menace

Counterattacks against enemy submarines in the Atlantic are slowly producing results, according to Admiral Harold R. Stark. The former chief of U. S. naval operations, who is now commanding American naval forces in European waters, stated last week in London that without doubt

the U-boat menace is gradually being beaten.

Much of the credit for tracking down the undersea raiders seems to be due to the Navy's lighter-than-air craft—the sausage-shaped blimps. Only last week a bill was introduced in Congress to increase the number of patrol blimps from 48 to 72. It is not known how many of the 48, which were authorized two years ago, are in operation, but brief accounts of the blimps' activities indicate that enough are serving to cause the enemy a good deal of grief.

Each blimp is about 250 feet long and 76 feet high, and can cruise at 55 miles an hour for 1,500 miles with a full load. It carries a crew of from eight to 12, and is armed with machine guns and depth bombs. It must operate either out of reach of enemy aircraft or with a heavy escort of fighter planes. These precautions, however, are not necessary in the Atlantic patrol, where the enemy does not have planes.

The blimps report the locations of enemy mines and locate submarines. Upon finding a U-boat, the blimp drops depth charges, and if these fail to sink the sub it radios for assistance from planes. The blimp can hover over its quarry almost indefinitely, and can keep a double check with a listening device trailed in the water.

Pan American Highway

Work on the 16,000-mile Pan American Highway is going along faster today than at any time since it was started, according to reports which have reached the nation's capital recently. The nations of Central and South America hope to have the road sufficiently advanced that it can be dedicated next October 12—the 450th anniversary of Columbus' arrival in America.

Not only does the highway promise greater unity among the Americas,

but it will bring a number of commercial benefits. Secretary Hull recently listed these advantages:

1. It will provide improved transportation for intra-American imports and exports.
2. It will make possible the development of new lands and untapped natural resources.
3. Its various commercial benefits will bring about increased employment and other economic improvements.
4. Tourist traffic will increase.
5. It will make possible a stronger defense of the Panama Canal, the Caribbean area, and parts of South America.
6. It will create a postwar market for American cars, parts, and garage equipment.

Economic Expert

Milo Perkins is today one of the most important figures in Washington. Only 42 years old, he is executive director of the powerful Board of Economic Warfare, an agency which now ranks in importance with the WPB. Working under Chairman Henry A. Wallace, he has full control over government stock piles of strategic raw materials; he can overrule even the State Department in matters of international trade.

At 16 Perkins was traveling as a magazine salesman, educating himself by hard study in hotel rooms at night. At 26 he was a successful businessman, owner of a prosperous bag manufacturing company.

In 1935, Perkins did a remarkable thing—he voluntarily offered his services to the Department of Agriculture for a fourth of the money he was making in private business. He was hired and became close friend and right-hand man to Secretary Wallace.

Perkins proved to be an extremely capable executive, popular with businessmen and able to secure their cooperation. He is constantly thinking up new ideas, some of which have been very valuable to the government. For example, he originated the highly successful food-stamp plan to dispose of surplus farm products and at the same time help families in need.



Milo Perkins

The American Observer

A Weekly Review of Social Thought and Action

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The Week Abroad

New British Offensive

During the last few weeks the British RAF has opened up an extremely important "second front" against the Nazis in Europe. Stabbing deep into Germany and occupied Europe, repeated waves of hundreds of planes have dropped unprecedented quantities of bombs on Axis strong points from Trondheim in Norway to Milan, Italy. The fury



Don't worry, Adolf, you have a nice long one coming.

SHOEMAKER IN CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

and destruction of this 24-hour-a-day offensive have been unmatched by any German air attacks since the war began.

Already two of Germany's four major Baltic ports—Luebeck and Rostock—have been reduced to twisted, smoking ruins. The famous naval base at Kiel, the great iron and steel works of the Ruhr in Western Germany, the vast Skoda munitions plants at Pilsen in old Czechoslovakia, and Dunkirk, Calais, Boulogne, Le Havre—prominent ports on the French coast—all these have recently felt the heavy blows of British bombs.

Unquestionably these constant raids have caused severe damage to Hitler's war effort by their wholesale destruction of factories, docks, air bases, and storage facilities. Furthermore, they force Hitler to keep thousands of troops immobilized on the western front which are badly needed in Russia.

More encouragement for the United Nations comes with the news that three of Hitler's best warships have been knocked out of action for weeks to come. They are the battleships

Gneisenau and Scharnhorst, located at Gdynia (Poland) and Kiel respectively, and the heavy cruiser *Prinz Eugen*, now at Trondheim. According to the British, all three of these ships were severely damaged by bombs and torpedoes when they made a dash for freedom last February from the French port of Brest.

Canada Votes

Canadians went to the polls last week and by a margin of five to three gave their approval to overseas conscription. It was a significant test of national unity in support of the war. If the vote had been No, it would have been interpreted as a victory for isolationism, if not for the Axis. A strong affirmative vote was recorded in all Canada's nine provinces except Quebec, which is largely French in population and deeply isolationist.

For all practical purposes, the vote was merely a symbol. Actually the Canadian government already had the power to conscript for home defense, and the army can hardly handle the flood of volunteers. Out of a population of 11,500,000, Canada already has an armed force of 450,000 volunteers, a third of whom are overseas.

Fuehrer and Duce Meet

At Salzburg, in German-occupied Austria, Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini met a few days ago for the first time since the United States entered the war. What they did and said during their two-day conference is not clearly known, but it is reported that they considered ways and means of getting more discipline and better morale on the home fronts. They also are said to have discussed the serious Axis manpower shortage, and Rome has announced that more Italian troops will be sent to the Russian front.

Persistent rumors lead to the belief that all is not well within these two Axis countries. In Germany, the high army losses, the shortage of food, the increasingly heavy RAF raids, and the constantly retreating vision of peace and victory have created a "sullen, unhappy populace," according to reports.

In Italy, an even worse situation is believed to exist. There has been increasing grumbling about the very

acute food shortages, especially since these shortages have been aggravated by shipments of food to occupied Europe. The government has had to order more severe enforcement of laws, and stricter discipline and longer working hours have been decreed for factories.

Some observers believe that these rumors of discontent are deliberately broadcast by Axis agents. It is possible that they may be designed to "soften resistance of the United Nations and prepare them for peace proposals."

Loss of Burma

The tide of battle in Burma has been going hard against the Allies. Lacking air support and tanks, the few Chinese and British defenders have withdrawn steadily before the hordes of heavily equipped Japanese. Lashio, southern terminus of the Burma Road, has fallen before swift and unexpected onslaughts. Mandalay, former Burmese capital, also has been lost. Practically all the valuable parts of Burma are now in Japanese hands, although the im-



IN FRANCE this design, made out of Laval's name and indicating his Nazi sympathies, is appearing on walls and sidewalks.

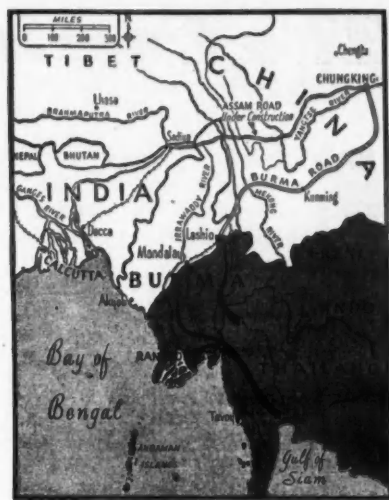
portant oil fields were fortunately destroyed before being abandoned.

The significance of Burma's loss must not be underrated. The Nipponese forces have reached their main objectives ahead of the torrential rains which begin this month. As we go to press they have moved down the Burma Road to within 30 miles of China, and have effectively cut the most important supply line to that country. There are four remaining routes over which limited supplies may find their way, but China is more than ever left to her own resources. In the case of oil, particularly, China is hard hit, for she depended heavily upon supplies from the Burmese oil fields.

India, also, is gravely threatened by the new Japanese advances. The invaders are still some 300 miles away, with massive mountain chains between them and India. Not much reliance can be placed upon this natural barrier, however, for the Japanese have long since demonstrated that they can traverse areas once thought impenetrable.

"C. R."

When Sir Stafford Cripps was in India recently, presenting the British proposal of postwar independence, one minority group of the Congress Party was in favor of accepting the offer. This faction was led by a man



The Burma front

named "C. R.," who, next to Gandhi and Nehru, is probably the most important leader among the Hindus of India. His full name is Chakravarti (meaning "World Conqueror") Rajogopalachariar, which is why everybody calls him C. R.!

A few days ago, C. R. once again broke with his colleagues of the Hindu Congress Party by urging that the leaders of the Congress and the Moslem League get together to discuss problems of wartime and government. This suggestion may be an important step toward Indian unity, for the Congress Party heretofore has been officially opposed to recognizing the claims of the Moslem minority.

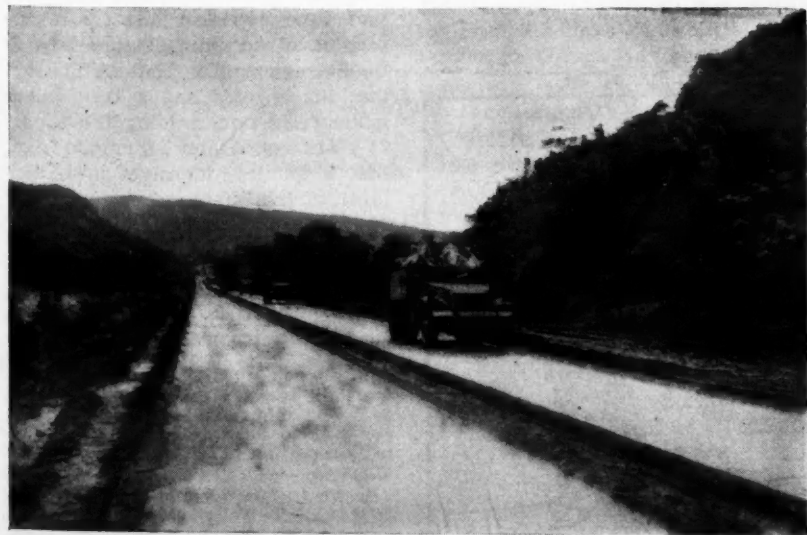
More than 60 years old, C. R. is premier and "boss" of the large British province of Madras, in southern India. For many years he has been an ardent follower of Gandhi and all his ideas, and has, like both Gandhi and Nehru, gone to prison for his beliefs. He is also one of Gandhi's closest advisers. It was he who recently persuaded the venerable Mahatma to resign as leader of the Congress. C. R.'s daughter is married to one of Gandhi's four sons.

Tall, gaunt, and intellectual, C. R. is a member of India's highest caste, the Brahmans. He was born into a distinguished family, and was trained as a lawyer. He is today one of the shrewdest politicians in India, and he may well exercise an important influence on the future of his country.

Madagascar

Britain's occupation of the island of Madagascar, backed by the United States, is likely to widen the breach between the Vichy government and the United Nations. Further incidents, leading to an open break, may be expected since the United Nations have apparently concluded that nothing more is to be gained by courting Vichy. Laval is Hitler's agent and he will collaborate with Germany to the fullest possible extent. The policy of dealing gently with Vichy is at an end.

Madagascar is vital to the safety of the Indian Ocean. In Japan's hands, it would imperil that entire ocean, as well as the supply lines leading to the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf. It was to forestall any possible French yielding of Madagascar to Japan that the British occupied the island. The United Nations are not going to repeat the mistake which was made when Japan was permitted to walk into French Indo-China last summer—giving her bases from which to attack Malaya, the Philippines, and the Netherlands Indies.



NEW PANAMA HIGHWAY. An American mechanized field artillery unit moves along a completed stretch of the new 48-mile trans-Isthmian highway. This is the first highway to be moved across Panama.

The Coming Peace Offensive

(Concluded from page 1)

nations internally. The peace offensive is just another part of the strategy of terror. It is designed to create confusion and distrust and thus weaken the enemy. There are signs, in the present offensive, that the objective is to split the United States and England from Russia. Hitler has even held out the bait of turning against the Japanese if only the British will join hands with him in a "white man's war" to preserve civilization. In return for this, the British are promised that their empire will remain intact.

What Peace Offensive Is

Late last month, Archibald MacLeish warned the American people to be on guard against the coming peace offensive of Hitler. In a speech delivered in New York, Mr. MacLeish described the purposes of such an offensive as follows:

"To prepare themselves against a 'peace' offensive, the American people need to know what a Nazi peace offensive is. They need to know, that is to say, that a Nazi peace offensive is as much a Nazi weapon as a Nazi mechanized division, or a fleet of Nazi planes. They need to know in full the history of previous Nazi operations with this weapon. They need to know for what purpose a Nazi peace offensive is made and with what end in view—that the end is never peace but always conquest—and that the inevitable con-

Knowing what we do or what we should of previous negotiations with the Axis Powers—negotiations in Munich, negotiations in the office of Secretary Hull while the Japanese planes were already over Honolulu—knowing this, none of those who now oppose the Axis would dare to trust the Axis in a negotiated peace, would dare relax one moment or disarm one regiment or return one factory to civil use as long as Hitler and the Japanese were armed and undefeated."

How can we recognize the peace offensive? There are generally two principal sources of peace "feelers" or proposals. The first is through neutral diplomatic channels, for example, through diplomats in Stockholm, or Berne, or Ankara. It is significant that the recent reports of peace proposals have come primarily from those cities. The other source is Hitler's speeches or the speeches of other high Nazi officials. From both these sources there have recently been numerous signs of the coming offensive.

From the first source, it was reported last week that a memorandum supposedly written by Goering and offering peace to Britain and the United States had actually been handed to diplomatic officials in Turkey, Switzerland, and Sweden. According to the reports the peace proposals provided that virtually the entire continent of Europe should be controlled by Germany, including "living space" in Russia, and that the French, Dutch, and Belgian colonial possessions should become the property of Germany. In return for these territorial annexations, Germany would agree to the following terms:

Invitation to Britain

1. The British Empire in its present form would be recognized by Hitler.
2. The United States would have political and economic control over Latin America.
3. A trade system would be established among the three resulting empires.

It is noteworthy that in these reported proposals nothing is said of Hitler's partners in the Axis—Japan and Italy. In fact, there have been many indications recently that part of the peace offensive is to create the impression that Hitler would be willing to turn against Japan in return for cooperation by the United States and Britain. Many German propaganda broadcasts of recent days have referred to "the Axis and Japan."

The most significant passage in Hitler's recent message to the Reichstag contained a veiled invitation to the British to ally themselves with the Nazis. "Not against Europe," said Hitler, "can the British structure be preserved in the long run, but with Europe." Since Hitler now controls the entire continent, his meaning is not difficult to determine. In a recent column, Walter Lippmann amplifies this interpretation of the Hitler speech:

In telling the British that they could preserve their Empire only by an alliance with "Europe," that is to say with Hitler, he was proposing to turn against his Japanese ally. The problem, which he sought to solve in his speech, was how to convey his suggestion to the British without making it too plain to the Japanese that he would, if he could, turn against them. . . .

There are, I believe, compelling reasons for thinking that what Hitler would like to do, is furious and frustrated because he cannot, is to extricate himself from the present war by transforming it into a struggle between "Europe" and "Asia." He tried and failed last year to win over Europe, and Britain, and America to the idea that he was the champion of a crusade against Bolshevism. Now, he would like to try again and make himself the champion of the western white men against the east which in his mind includes Russia. . . .

Ideologically this transformation of the war would be a complete answer to a Nazi prayer. If in alliance with Britain he could call off the western European war, he would become what he has always dreamed of being, the champion of western civilization against Bolshevism and the "yellow peril." His propagandists in the United States have been hinting at this solution ever since Pearl Harbor. Hitler knows very well that his 1939 pact with Stalin made his anti-Bolshevism look preposterous, and that his present alliance with Japan makes his racial theories look even more preposterous. If he could persuade the British that in alliance with him they could have back Hongkong, Malaya, Burma, and could be sure of India, he would feel once more like the old Hitler.

Undoubtedly this offer to turn against the Japanese will meet a warm reception in certain quarters in Great Britain and the United States. The "yellow peril" idea has been widely exploited in Britain and the United States for a good many years. Moreover, from the British standpoint, most of the losses their Empire has sustained in the present war have come from the Japanese, not the Germans. Singapore, British Malaya, Hongkong have fallen to the Japanese, and now India is seriously threatened. Thus, there is considerable logic behind his appeal.

Europe Against Asia?

By seeking to transform the war into a conflict between "Europe" and "Asia," thus including Russia, Hitler also hopes to win support in the United States. There are many Americans whose support of Russia is tepid, to say the least. The fear of Communism has been played up so strongly by Axis propagandists that it is firmly entrenched among certain elements of the American population. Thus, Hitler has availed himself of the most potent arguments and played



UNEASY PARTNERS? Hitler and Mussolini met again a few days ago to discuss the new Axis campaign. From their statements they seem less confident of victory than formerly.

upon the most deep-seated fears in launching his latest peace offensive.

Before the spring peace offensive has spent itself, it is possible that Hitler's puppet Laval will play a conspicuous role. In fact, there are reasons to believe that Laval was placed at the head of the Vichy government partly for the purpose of serving as Hitler's tool in this connection. Hitler knows that there has long been a deep feeling of affection for the French people throughout the United States. French propaganda, therefore, would be far more effective in this country than German propaganda is. Laval will undoubtedly attempt to prove that he is working solely for the French people. As Dorothy Thompson expressed the idea in a recent column: "Laval's international role is to launch a peace offensive, especially in the United States, and on behalf of the suffering people of France, with the object of dividing public opinion in the United States, and thus weakening our effort."

It has been argued recently that the United Nations, especially the United States, should counter the Axis peace offensive by a psychological offensive of their own. It is a well-known fact that one of the most potent factors in defeating Germany in the First World War was the Fourteen Points of President Wilson—a basis upon which peace was to be restored. The American President at that time appealed directly to the peoples of occupied Europe and to the German people. There is no doubt that his appeals had a tremendous influence in undermining the enemy 25 years ago. Walter Lippmann urges that a similar offensive be undertaken at this time:

Political Warfare by U. S.

We have passed the phase where we have to sit anxiously wondering how to defend ourselves against Axis propaganda and intrigue. We have come to the phase where, if we have the wisdom and imagination to realize our position, we shall cease to talk of this struggle as a war of survival and will proclaim our war to be, throughout the world, in Europe and in Asia, a war of liberation.

Instead of wondering what we shall do if Berlin or Tokyo offers us a fraudulent and treacherous peace, the time has come to offer our own peace based upon the liberation of all the peoples from the twin tyrannies of Berlin and Tokyo.



Hitler and Mussolini agreed on plans for victory—German statement
THOMAS IN DETROIT NEWS

sequence to the Nazi victims is defeat. . . .

"Defeat in this war is not possible in the sense in which defeat in other wars was possible—a defeat now to be followed by years of recuperation and a victory in a later war to follow. There will be no war to follow later if this war is lost. Those who win this war will see to it—and will see to it with relative ease—that the defeated will not fight a war for many years to come; will not have the means to fight a war; will not have the means to build the planes and tanks by which alone a modern war can be attempted. The defeated in this war will be defeated as the French are now defeated, as the Poles are now defeated, as the Danes are. No French Revolution of pitchforks against armies will be possible against the victors in this war; the fighting of the last two years has proven that. . . .

"Negotiation in this war is not possible in the sense in which negotiation was possible in other wars.



Watch out, folks, they're artificial
VAN ZELM IN C. B. MONITOR

Price Control Plans Examined

(Concluded from page 1)

known in the language of economics as inflation. Already this rise in prices has reached serious proportions. Since the outbreak of the war in the fall of 1939, the average price of goods and services has increased 15 per cent, with the result that it now takes \$1.15 to buy the same things that \$1 would buy in the fall of 1939.

While prices have risen steadily during the present war, the rise has been less sharp than during World War I. At that time the increase was 100 per cent. It took twice as much money in 1920 to buy the same things as it did in 1914. It is in order to prevent such a development now that the President is urging a sweeping program of control.

Why Prices Rise

The reasons for the price rises of recent months are not difficult to determine. The spending of billions upon billions of dollars for war materials has given more people jobs and has put larger sums of money in their pockets. Men who a year ago were unemployed or were working for a small income are today on defense jobs. Some of them are earning as much as \$150 to \$175 a week. Even girl stenographers in certain defense areas are making nearly \$70 a week; which is more than a good many stenographers elsewhere earn in a month.

If more goods for civilian use were being turned out at the same time that larger sums were going into the pockets of workers, prices would remain about the same as they were. But the supply of civilian goods, as everyone knows, has not increased. It has not even remained the same as



Hitting the ceiling
KIRBY IN N. Y. POST

formerly. It has been steadily decreased. Thus, there is a wide discrepancy between the amount of money available for spending and the amount of goods and services available for purchase. As the chart on this page shows, the money available for spending (after taxes and savings have been provided for) is expected to be \$86,000,000,000 this year; whereas only \$65,000,000,000 worth of goods for consumers will be available. In other words, there is a gap of \$21,000,000,000 of excess spending power. If controls were not adopted, people would bid against each other for the available goods and the prices would skyrocket. As the

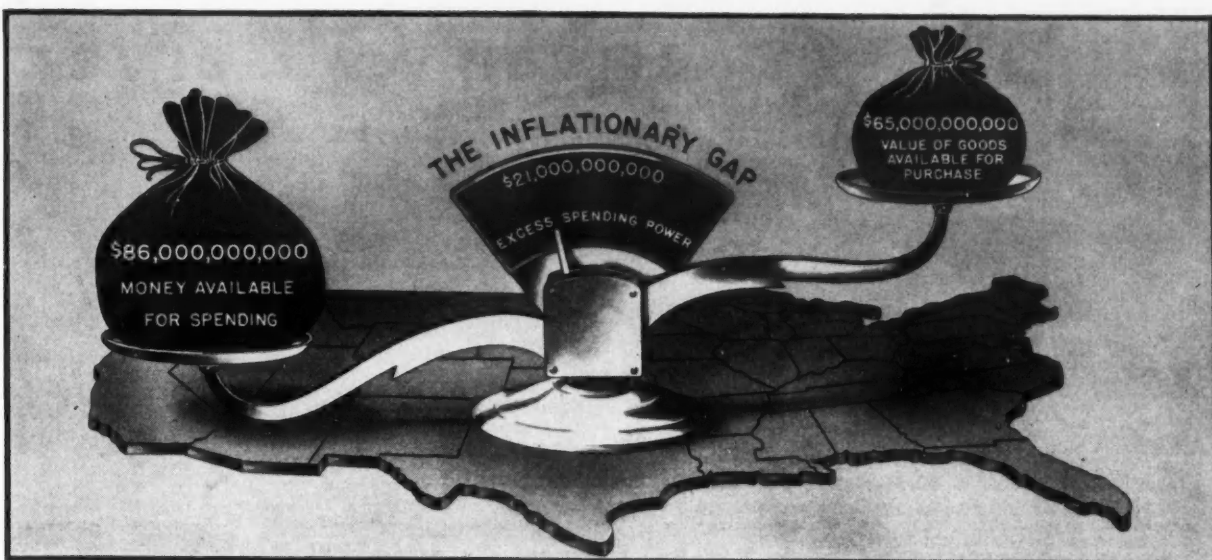


Chart reprinted from the United States News, an independent publication issued weekly in Washington, D. C.

President explained the problem to the people in his address:

When your government continues to spend these unprecedented sums for munitions month by month and year by year, that money goes into the pocket-books and bank accounts of the people of the United States. At the same time, raw materials and many manufactured goods are necessarily taken away from civilian use; and machinery and factories are being converted to war production.

You do not have to be a professor of economics to see that if people with plenty of cash start bidding against each other for scarce goods, the price of them goes up.

The President's attack upon prices consists of a seven-point program. Part of it can be carried out under existing legislation; part will require new laws; and part can be effected only by the full cooperation of the American people. Here are the seven points:

Seven-Point Program

1. A direct attack upon prices by fixing a ceiling above which prices may not rise. Already an order has been issued by Price Administrator Leon Henderson fixing price ceilings on some 30,000 items; virtually everything of importance except certain foodstuffs. The ceilings will go into effect May 18 and the price which may be charged after that date is the highest price charged during the month of March.

Thus, after May 18, the retailer may charge the housewife no more than his highest March price for a certain article. The wholesaler's prices are to be frozen today, May 11, as are those of the manufacturer. Service industries, such as laundries, garages, and so forth, go under the price ceilings beginning July 1.

In addition to freezing prices at their March levels, the Henderson order also calls for placing ceilings on rents in more than 300 specially defined defense areas. These defense areas include practically all the large cities of the United States and will affect centers containing well over half the population of the nation. In most cases, landlords are forbidden to charge higher rentals than those in existence on March 1.

2. Farm prices are to be prevented from soaring further. This will undoubtedly require additional legislation since farm goods enjoy special privileges under existing laws. But the President feels that farm prices must be kept in line with other prices if the cost of living is to be brought under control and the economic system kept in balance.

3. Wages are to be stabilized

through the activities of the War Labor Board. The President does not ask for the abolition of the 40-hour week, but he does oppose further increases in wages at this time. He believes that legislation fixing wages is not necessary. At present, disputes between workers and employers are handled by the War Labor Board. Since most of these disputes deal with wage rates, it is argued, the Board can readily prevent further increases by refusing to grant the workers' demands. It is not likely that widespread wage increases will be granted voluntarily by employers.

4. Part of the excess spending power referred to earlier in this article is to be siphoned off by a program of heavier taxation. While the President did not go into details on a new tax program, he did call for legislation placing limits on personal incomes and corporation profits. He advocated \$25,000 as the maximum individual salary.

Congress is already considering a new tax bill to apply to 1942 incomes of individuals and corporations. Great controversy will develop when a tax bill actually comes up for consideration on the floors of Congress. The chief issue will be on the extent to which persons with relatively low incomes should be taxed.

Extension of Rationing

5. Extension of rationing to scarce and essential materials. The purpose of further rationing is not merely to conserve the supplies of essential goods but also to make these supplies available on an equitable basis. If rationing were not put into effect, the existing supplies would be obtained by people with money, whereas others would be obliged to go without them. How extensive the rationing system will become in the months ahead is unknown, but the American people are certain to find that many, many products can be obtained only with a ration card.

6. The purchase of war stamps and bonds is to be encouraged. The President is not yet prepared to advocate the sale of bonds on a compulsory basis and prefers to keep it on a voluntary basis. In this, he differs from many members of Congress who feel that the time has come for compulsion. The Treasury has now launched an intensified drive for the sale of bonds. Secretary Morgenthau has recommended that individuals invest 10 per cent of their income in war bonds.

How long the sale of bonds will remain on a voluntary basis will de-

pend entirely upon the response which the new campaign meets. Not only does the government need the money to finance the war program, but larger sums must be taken out of circulation if the inflation-control program is to be successful. War bonds are one of the best mediums of siphoning off part of the \$21,000,000,000 of excess spending power.

7. The last point of the President's program deals with credit and installment sales. Mr. Roosevelt urges people to use their increased incomes to pay off existing debts—such as mortgages, loans, debts on furniture and automobiles, and other articles which were purchased on time. If the money is used in this way, it will not go for articles which are scarce.

Already, certain restrictions have been placed upon the sale of goods on time. Larger down payments are required in most cases and the length of time over which payments may be stretched has been shortened. It is possible that these restrictions will become even tighter.

Criticism of Program

Above, in brief, is the President's program. It has, for the most part, met enthusiastic support throughout the nation. What criticism has been leveled against it is on the ground that it does not go far enough toward controlling the price level. For example, many people believe that Mr. Roosevelt should come out flatly for forced savings through the compulsory purchase of war bonds. They also contend that he should have given more specific details about taxation. Since taxation and the sale of war bonds are the only two ways of draining off large sums of excess purchasing power, it is argued, these two parts of the program should have been stressed more strongly.

Criticism has also been raised because the President did not advocate the abolition of the 40-hour week and a definite freezing of wage scales. It is pointed out that the large sums which are being paid in salaries and wages are one of the main reasons for the increase in prices. Supporters of the President argue, however, that to eliminate the 40-hour week would reduce wages at present and would thus place the workers in an unfavorable position. Since all prices are to be fixed or frozen at certain levels, and not reduced, there is no reason why wages should be lowered. The President has called for their stabilization, the argument runs, and that is what he has done with other items in the cost of living.

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